



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: Human Trafficking

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Rescinds:

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Approved By:

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

It is the procedure of the Myrtle Beach Police Department to accurately report and aggressively investigate all reports of Human Trafficking. The Police Department's goals are to identify and assist the victims of human trafficking and to effectively identify, apprehend, and prosecute those engaged in trafficking offenses, with the help of state and/or federal government.

DEFINITIONS

The following are definitions and state law regarding Human Trafficking as they are defined in South Carolina Code Of Laws 16-3-930:

- A. A person who knowingly subjects another person to forced labor or services, or recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means another person knowing that the person will be subjected to forced labor or services, or aids, abets, attempts, conspires to do any of the above acts is guilty of a felony known as trafficking in persons for forced labor or services and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than fifteen years.
- B. Forced labor or Services means any type of labor or services performed or provided by a person rendered through another person's exertion of physical, financial, or other means of control over the person providing the labor or services.

1. INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A. VISIBLE INDICATORS

1. Heavy security at the commercial establishment including barred windows, locked doors, isolated location, electronic surveillance. Women are never seen leaving the premises unless escorted.
2. Victims live at the same premises as the brothel or work site or are driven between quarters and "work" by a guard. For labor trafficking, victims are often prohibited from leaving the work site, which may look like a guarded compound from the outside.
3. Victims are kept under surveillance when taken to a doctor, hospital or clinic for treatment; trafficker may act as a translator.
4. High foot traffic especially for brothels where there may be trafficked women indicated often by a stream of men arriving and leaving the premises

B. HEALTH CHARACTERISTIC OF A TRAFFICKED PERSON

1. Malnutrition, dehydration or poor personal hygiene
2. Sexually transmitted diseases
3. Signs of rape or sexual abuse
4. Bruising, broken bones, or other signs of untreated medical problems
5. Critical illnesses including diabetes, cancer or heart disease
6. Post-traumatic stress or psychological disorders

C. OTHER SIGNS

1. Does not hold his/her own identity or travel documents
2. Suffers from verbal or psychological abuse designed to intimidate, degrade and frighten the individual
3. Has a trafficker or pimp who controls all the money, victim will have very little or no pocket money

4. PROCEDURES

A. INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

1. Communications

Communications officers/dispatchers shall:

- a. When a caller reports a case of Human Trafficking, communications personnel shall follow standard emergency response to include evaluating and properly prioritizing the call, securing medical assistance, inquiring about a suspect's current location, and obtaining detailed information to identify the suspect. Information about the relationship with the victim, weapon use, and history of violence shall also be obtained.
- b. The decision as to the priority of the call should be based on the seriousness of the injuries or threatened harm, and whether or not the suspect is on the premises.

B. INITIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

1. Be cautious when arriving on scene and locate the victim(s) and determine if there is a language barrier. A translator should be called to the scene if needed and do not use any translators from the scene as this could be someone working for the suspect.

2. Initial victim interview: It is important to remember that this case must be handled appropriately and all interviews conducted upon initial response because these cases are time sensitive and this may be the only chance the victim will have to ask for help. The officer should interview the victim and record as much of the following information as possible:

- a. Is the person free to leave the work site?
- b. Is the person physically, sexually or psychologically abused?
- c. Does the person have a passport or valid I.D. card and is he/she in possession of such documents?
- d. What the pay is and conditions of employment?
- e. Does the person live at home or at/near the work site?

- f. How did the individual arrive at this destination if the suspected victim is a foreign national?
 - g. Has the person or a family member of this person been threatened?
 - h. Does the person fear that something bad will happen to him or her, or to a family member, if he/she leaves the job?
- 3. The officer should notify the shift supervisor, who in turn will notify the on-duty / on-call detective, which will respond to assist with the investigation.

C. ARREST DECISIONS

1. GENERAL ARREST POWERS

Responding officers will arrest the suspect as authorized by law.

2. REPORT TO SUPERVISOR

- a. In any case where the patrol officer has not made an arrest, but probable cause exists and the suspect is not on the scene, the officer will notify the patrol supervisor and provide the appropriate BOLO.
- b. Supervisors must notify the on-duty detective on all trafficking cases.

5. INVESTIGATIVE SECTION

- A. The Detective Division shall be notified of all trafficking cases immediately. The on duty detective will respond and begin the investigation and if it is determined that the victim is a victim of human trafficking, the detective will notify the local Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office to assist with the investigation. If an arrest warrant can be issued, it should be done immediately and all attempts made to locate the suspect.